



CAPACITY. CONTROL. CONFIDENCE.
HP STORAGEWORKS D2D BACKUP SYSTEMS



» FIND THE RIGHT SPACE

internet.com® You are in the: Small Business Computing Channel

Small Business Computing

» ECommerce-Guide | Small Business Computing | Webopedia | WinPlanet | Refer-It
Speed, agility, flexibility - The HP BladeSystem c-Class.

internet.com

(Webopedia)

The #1 online encyclopedia
dedicated to computer technology

Enter a word for a definition...

...or choose a computer category.

Go!

choose one...

Go!

MENU

[Home](#)
[Term of the Day](#)
[New Terms](#)
[Pronunciation](#)
[New Links](#)
[Quick Reference](#)
[Did You Know?](#)
[Categories](#)
[Tech Support](#)
[Technology Jobs](#)
[About Us](#)
[Link to Us](#)
[Advertising](#)

[RSS](#)

(Webopedia) Partners

[Become a Marketplace Partner](#)

FREE BUSINESS CARDS!
[Free Business Cards](#)

Technology Directory
[Click for Technology & Business providers](#)

Compare Prices:

[Search here](#) **go**

[shop.internet.com](#)

[Talk To Us...](#)

local-area network

Last modified: Tuesday, February 18, 2003

A computer network that spans a relatively small area. Most LANs are confined to a single building or group of buildings. However, one LAN can be connected to other LANs over any distance via telephone lines and radio waves. A system of LANs connected in this way is called a wide-area network (WAN).

Most LANs connect workstations and personal computers. Each node (individual computer) in a LAN has its own CPU with which it executes programs; but it also is able to access data and devices anywhere on the LAN. This means that many users can share expensive devices, such as laser printers, as well as data. Users can also use the LAN to communicate with each other, by sending e-mail or engaging in chat sessions.

There are many different types of LANs. Ethernets being the most common for PCs. Most Apple Macintosh networks are based on Apple's AppleTalk network system, which is built into Macintosh computers.

The following characteristics differentiate one LAN from another:

- **topology** : The geometric arrangement of devices on the network. For example, devices can be arranged in a ring or in a straight line.
- **protocols** : The rules and encoding specifications for sending data. The protocols also determine whether the network uses a peer-to-peer or

Explore your alternatives.
The HP ProLiant DL385 G5 server, featuring Integrated Light-Out Management.

» LEARN MORE

Powered by the Quad-Core AMD Opteron™ processor.

HP Storage Solutions for Midsize Business

Storage Networking , Part 1

eBook: A storage network is any network that's designed to transport block-level storage protocols. But understanding the ins and outs of networked storage takes you deep into several of protocols. This guide covers SANs, Fibre Channels, Disk Arrays; Fabric, and IP Storage. »

Storage Networking 2, Configuration and Planning

eBook: Picking up where Part 1 left off, Part 2 of our look at storage networking examines configurations for SAN-attached servers and disk arrays, and also includes a look at the future of IP storage. »

Storage Management Costs in the Enterprise: A Comparison of Mid-Range Array Solutions

Whitepaper: Many factors contribute to the ownership cost for enterprise storage. These include (but are not limited to): physical capacity relative to physical space requirements, performance capacity for data transfer and system reaction time, software maintenance and updates, expandability and flexibility, and much more. »

Storage Is Changing Fast... Be Ready or Be Left Behind

PDF: The storage landscape is headed for dramatic change, thanks to new technologies like Fibre Channel over Ethernet

[Submit a URL](#)[Suggest a Term](#)[Report an Error](#)**YAHOO!**
shopping

IT
Developer
Internet News
Small Business
Personal Technology
International

[Search internet.com](#)[Advertise](#)[Corporate Info](#)[Newsletters](#)[Tech Jobs](#)[E-mail Offers](#)[Be a Commerce Partner](#)[Free eCommerce Demo](#)[Find Software](#)[Promotional Pens](#)[Calling Cards](#)[Hurricane Shutters](#)[Laptops](#)[Disney World Tickets](#)[Car Donations](#)[Online Shopping](#)[PDA Phones & Cases](#)[Compare Prices](#)[Dental Insurance](#)[Online Education](#)[Boat Donations](#)client/server architecture.

- **media** : Devices can be connected by twisted-pair wire, coaxial cables, or fiber optic cables. Some networks do without connecting media altogether, communicating instead via radio waves.

(FCoE), pNFS, object-based storage and SAS that will affect everything from NAS and SANs to disk drives. Get the knowledge you need to make the most of your storage environment, now and in the future. »

HP StorageWorks EVA4400

Demo: Dont settle for an expensive and complex array that lacks functionality. The HP StorageWorks EVA4400 delivers virtual storage with enterprise class functionality at an affordable price. »

LANs are capable of transmitting data at very fast rates, much faster than data can be transmitted over a telephone line; but the distances are limited, and there is also a limit on the number of computers that can be attached to a single LAN.

E-mail this definition to a colleague**Sponsored Listings**

IEEE Articles - Free Trial - Access To IEEE Journal & Conference Papers In The IEEE Digital Library.

Cisco LAN at Focus Technology - Focus is a leading provider of servers and IT hardware including Cisco LAN. Trained professionals serving our broad spectrum of product lines.

The Complete Source for Wireless Network Hardware - Find the Wireless Network Hardware You're Looking For. Featuring the Complete Line of Wi-Fi Hardware for All Major Brands. Free Ground Shipping.

Related Categories[Business Computing](#)[Network Topologies](#)[Networks](#)**Related Terms**

*For Internet.com pages about
local-area network [CLICK HERE.](#)
Also check out the following links!*

 **LINKS** = Great Page!**Ethernet tutorial** 

Contains an in-depth introduction to local area networks from Lanttronix.

LAN Times Online 

The LAN Times online publication offers current news and analysis on the networking industry, along with links to trade shows and events, career development, and information on UnixWorld.

Simple Guide to Building a Home LAN 

An article from Sharky Extreme's Hardware Guide.

The Truth About Servers 

What makes a server a server? Is there a difference between an e-mail server and a messaging server? Should a firewall be considered a server in certain circumstances? These questions and more are answered in an extensive tutorial that cuts through the marketing hype and explains the basics of key server types.

ARCNET Trade Association home page

Home page for ARCNET Trade Association, a non-profit organization of ARCNET users and manufacturers. This site provides a history of ARCNET, links to technical publications, membership information, directories, and product information.

Cable testers buyers directory

Offers a collection of links to cable tester companies and products. This page is hosted by LAN Times Online.

CD-ROM LAN FAQ

Provides answers to questions on CD-ROM networking solutions and links to related newsgroups, publications, and FTP sites.